

VA Medical Center, Aspinwall Division,
Animal House (Building No. 26)
5103 Delafield Avenue
Aspinwall Vicinity
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5438-H

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VA MEDICAL CENTER,
ASPINWALL DIVISION, ANIMAL HOUSE
(Building No. 26)

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Location: The Animal House is located in the southeast quadrant of the hospital complex. It is attached to the southeast facade of the Station Garage, and is located on north side of an axial road leading southeast from the main entry drive, approximately 650 feet southeast of the end of the drive. The Medical Center is located at 5103 Delafield Avenue, Aspinwall vicinity, O'Hara Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: Constructed ca. 1932, the Animal House is associated with the Aspinwall Hospital complex, which was developed by the Veterans' Bureau (later the Veterans Administration) as part of a nationwide expansion of the Bureau's hospital facilities conducted between 1920 and 1947.

Description: The Animal House is a single story building measuring approximately 35 feet by 20 feet. It is of reinforced concrete construction, with structural tile walls and brick cladding. The flat-roofed building is attached at its northwest facade to the Station Garage, and has a concrete belt course extending across the three other facades just below a low parapet wall capped by bricks laid in a rowlock pattern. The rectangular window openings have been infilled with glass block, although the concrete sills remain. Other features include a centrally located roof ventilator and ornamental boots at the downspouts.

History: The Animal House was constructed in the early 1930's to house animals used in laboratory experiments and tests. The building included double-decked animal runs and cages for sheep and mice. The building is presently vacant, and last served as a storage facility.

Sources: Veterans Administration Medical Center. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (1980).

Twenty-fifth Anniversary: Veterans Administration Hospital, Aspinwall, Pennsylvania (1950).

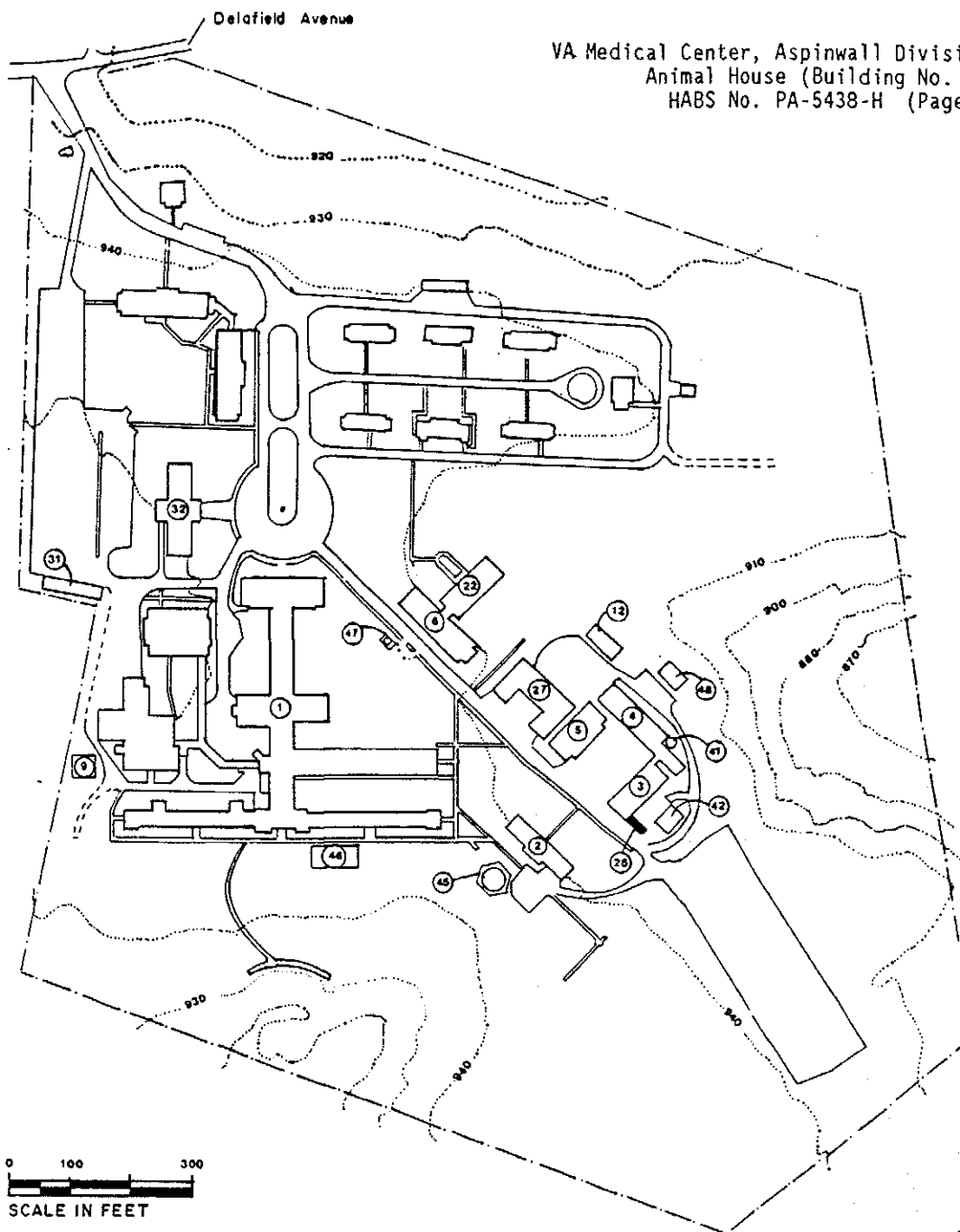
National Hospital Day at U.S. Veterans Administration Facility, Aspinwall, Pennsylvania (1945).

Original architectural drawings on file at Engineering Services, VA Medical Center, Oakland Division, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

VA Medical Center, Aspinwall Division,
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HABS No. PA-5438-H (Page 2)

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